



# Mbeya NT Cluster\*

## Fighting a Formidable Foe!

Our Enemy, Satan, is a determined and devious foe. In Luke 8:12 we're told that as the seed of God's Word is sown in the hearts of people, "the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts so they may not believe and be saved." Nothing is more harmful than when this life-giving truth is prevented from taking root in people's hearts.

Or is there something even worse than that? What if the Bible isn't available in the first place and the seeds of God's Word are never sown? This would certainly hinder any hope of a relationship with God, as the truth of His plan of salvation remains hidden. It's no wonder Bible translation projects so frequently face attacks from the powers of darkness.

- **Pray that Satan's efforts will be thwarted so God's love can be communicated to the Mbeya people and their hearts drawn to faith and a restored relationship with Him.**

## Hand to the Plow

The Bena team has drafted<sup>1</sup> the last half of Luke's Gospel and also back translated<sup>4</sup> the whole book to get it ready for a consultant's check.<sup>5</sup> Now, that portion of God's Word is drawing closer to completion to join the previously finished books of Mark, Ruth and Jonah in the Bena language. The books of 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus and Philemon are pushing ahead as well.

Luke has been consultant checked<sup>5</sup> in Kinga. Once the advisor check and testing<sup>3</sup> are completed, that book will be at the same stage as James and will await publication. In the meantime, the previously printed books of Ruth, Jonah, Mark, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus and Philemon continue to be accessible to the Kinga people. Drafting of Acts is ongoing.

Luke is now at the consultant-checking<sup>5</sup> stage in Malila, which has been completed to the halfway point. As soon as this step and the advisor check are finished, the book will be approved and ready for printing along with Acts. Meanwhile, back translation<sup>4</sup> of the second half of Luke is underway in preparation for the consultant. Work on 1, 2 and 3 John and Jude is also ongoing to get those books ready for the consultant.

A big news flash is that 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus and Philemon have been printed in Ndali. At the other end of the spectrum, Luke is still at the drafting step.<sup>1</sup> To date, it has been translated to the 50 percent mark. Since it's a rough adaptation, as are the other books in the Mbeya languages, much checking, testing and revision will come after the drafting task. Testing,<sup>3</sup> the advisor check and consultant-checking<sup>5</sup> of Matthew await completion.



- Location: Tanzania, Africa
- Number of Speakers: 3,032,000
- Year Project Began: 2006
- Expected Completion Date: 2015

- **Praise God for what He's doing through the faithful labors of the Bena translators.**
- **Pray for the Bena team as they prepare for the consultant's check of Luke and complete further steps on 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus and Philemon.**
- **Praise God for the books that are in print in Kinga and available to the people. Pray for the team as they work on Acts and prepare Luke and James for publication.**
- **Pray that Luke, Acts, 1, 2 and 3 John and Jude will shortly be in people's hands.**
- **Pray for the Ndali team as they mold the rough drafts of God's Word into polished Scriptures that communicate meaningfully to the people.**





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The Nyakyusa-Ngonde team has been busy. Since the last Update, they've drafted<sup>1</sup> the second half of Luke and the entire first half of the companion volume to Luke – Acts. They also did more work on 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus and Philemon. Notably, they've redrafted and revised all four books and back translated<sup>4</sup> them.

The Nyiha translators are pleased to announce that the book of Revelation will soon take its place among the other books that have either been published (Ruth, Jonah and Mark) or are approved for printing (1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon and James). The advisor check of Revelation was recently completed and the book was then back translated<sup>4</sup> in anticipation of a consultant check.<sup>5</sup> Acts is also advancing through the steps.

The Safwa team has commenced work on 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus and Philemon in their language. The drafting<sup>1</sup> and advisor-checking steps are now in progress. As for Mark, the team has back translated three-fourths of the book as they poise for a consultant check.<sup>5</sup>

The Sangu team's latest tasks include a back translation<sup>4</sup> of the rest of Luke. The advisor check and testing<sup>3</sup> of the book are ongoing. The team has also begun drafting Acts and is a fourth of the way through. They're excited as these two books approach print readiness.

The Wanji team has several irons in the fire. Drafting<sup>1</sup> of Acts is now at 50 percent (up from 25 percent) and the advisor check of all of 1 Corinthians has been done. Additionally, 1 and 2 Thessalonians have been community tested<sup>3</sup> and consultant checked.<sup>5</sup>

- **Pray for the Nyakyusa-Ngonde team as they move the books of Luke and Acts through the translation process and work on 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus and Philemon.**
- **Pray for the Nyiha team as their present focus is on Acts and Revelation.**
- **Pray for the Safwa team as they've met hurdles in the past and are now picking up speed in the task that God has entrusted to them.**
- **Praise God for the Sangu translators' sense of accomplishment for a job well done. Pray that He'll put a hedge of protection around their work on Luke and Acts.**
- **Thank the Lord that 1 and 2 Thessalonians are now at the printing stage in Wanji. Pray that God will empower the translators as they work on Acts and 1 Corinthians.**

### Six Steps of Translation

1. **First Draft:** translators analyze what a passage says and produce a first draft.
2. **Team Check:** translators check each verse for accuracy and clarity.
3. **Community Testing:** translators share drafted Scripture with community members to test how well it communicates.
4. **Back Translation:** translators translate the draft "back" into a major language for a non-native consultant.
5. **Consultant Check:** a consultant checks the translation with the team to make sure expected standards are met.
6. **Proofread:** translators rigorously proofread the final draft for errors before publication.

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3030 Matlock Road, Suite 104  
Arlington, Texas 76015

Toll Free: (877) 593-7333  
www.theseedcompany.org

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